

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JSEYMOUR:LG

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

OES:OHGANLEY(IN SUBSTANCE)

EUR:AAHARTMAN

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O R 221920Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181586

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, YO (TOTH, LASZLO)

SUBJECT: CASE OF LASZLO TOTH

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REF: BELGRADE 4729, 4752, 4756

1. SUMMARY. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES AMBASSADOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ANALYSES IN REFERENCES. ARMITAGE RAISED TOTH CASE WHEN HE RECEIVED AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI AND DR. MARGAN JULY 21. AT A LUNCHEON ATTENDED ALSO BY EE ACTING DIRECTOR, OES ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GANLEY STRESSED OUR CONCERN ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH CASES FOR OUR SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES. END SUMMARY.

2. UTILIZING MARGAN'S STRESS ON TESLA AS A SYMBOL OF THE LINKAGE BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES, ARMITAGE UNDERSCORED OUR INTEREST IN EXCHANGES IN ALL FIELDS--BUSINESS, POLITICS, SPORT. NOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING THESE
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EXCHANGE RELATIONSHIPS AND POINTING TO THE INCREASING

ROLE OF CONGRESS IN WATCHING OVER FOREIGN POLICY, ARMITAGE CONTINUED THAT WE SEE THE INVOLVEMENT OF YUGOSLAV-AMERICANS IN EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES AS AN ASSET. WE ARE THEREFORE GREATLY CONCERNED OVER PROBLEMS OF DUAL NATIONALS SUCH AS TOTH. AT THIS POINT, BELOVSKI DEPLORED THE MALCOLM BROWNE ARTICLE APPEARING IN

THE TIMES ON JULY 21 (TEXT TRANSMITTED SEPARATELY).

3. NOTING THAT WE ARE GLAD TO HEAR OF TOTH'S IMPENDING RELEASE, ARMITAGE POINTED OUT THAT WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE CASE FROM ITS BEGINNING TO ITS CURRENT CONCLUSION BUT OUR REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN UNAVAILING. WE HAVE NEVER EVEN BEEN ABLE TO GET AN OFFICIAL EXPLANATION AS TO THE NATURE OF THE CHARGES. WE WERE ESPECIALLY ANNOYED WHEN SOMEONE UNDER MORE SERIOUS CHARGES WAS RECENTLY RELEASED TO THE SOVIET UNION WHILE TOTH REMAINED IN JAIL. ARMITAGE REITERATED THAT OUR CONCERN ABOUT DUAL NATIONALS IS HEIGHTENED SINCE WE VIEW THEM AS A SUPPORTIVE PART OF OUR RELATIONS AND WE WANT THEM TO PARTICIPATE. IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY THAT WE ACHIEVE AN UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE RULES OF THE GAME REGARDING TREATMENT OF DUAL NATIONALS IF WE ARE TO ELIMINATE THIS PROBLEM IN OUR RELATIONS.

4. BELOVSKI BACKED AWAY FROM AN EFFORT TO MAKE A CONNECTION BETWEEN DUAL NATIONALS AND ANTI-YUGOSLAV TERRORISM IN THE U.S. WHILE AGREEING THAT NO DIRECT CONNECTION SHOULD BE MADE, HE NOTED THAT THERE MAY BE "MISTAKES" OR "MIS-UNDERSTANDINGS" ON BOTH SIDES. MARGAN CHIMED IN THAT WE SHOULD DO ALL POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THESE MISTAKES. ADMITTING THAT HE WAS NOT INFORMED ABOUT TOTH, MARGAN SAID HE THOUGHT IT WAS AN ISOLATED CASE. ARMITAGE SAID THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF CASES AND CITED DIFFICULTIES WIVES OF SOME MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE HAD RECENTLY. WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAILS, ARMITAGE CONCLUDED THAT IT IS CRITICAL TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MATTER SINCE IT IS IN OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS TO SUSTAIN THESE CONTACTS BY YUGOSLAV-AMERICANS WHICH FORM AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR RELATIONSHIP.

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5. ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADVANCED AND APPLIED TECHNOLOGY AFFAIRS GANLEY REINFORCED THE POINT AT THE LUNCH HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI THAT SAME DAY. MARGAN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT U.S.-YUGOSLAV SCIENTIFIC RELATIONS WOULD CONTINUE TO PROSPER AND SAID HE HOPED "EXTRANEIOUS FACTORS" WOULD NOT CAUSE ADVERSE EFFECTS. GANLEY SAID HE ALSO HOPED COOPERATION WOULD CONTINUE TO

EXPAND, BUT OBSERVED THAT OTHER FACTORS, SUCH AS PROBLEMS
ENCOUNTERED BY AMERICAN CITIZENS VISITING YUGOSLAVIA,
WOULD INEVITABLY IMPACT ADVERSELY ON SUCH COOPERATION.
RESPONDING TO MARGAN'S APPEAL FOR OUR UNDERSTANDING FOR
YUGOSLAVIA WHICH HE SAID IS IN A VERY "DIFFICULT" PERIOD,
GANLEY NOTED OUR AWARENESS OF THE "DIFFICULT" PERIOD BUT

SAID THIS DOES NOT MEAN WE WILL NOT REACT WHEN AMERICAN
CITIZENS ENCOUNTER PROBLEMS. ROBINSON

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